IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as indicated below:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method comprising the steps of:

creating a doeument stack from at least one word in a handwritten document;

creating a query stack from a query; and

determining a measure between the document stack and the query stack, where each query stack and document stack comprises a plurality of scores, wherein the measure is a dot product measure defined as follows

$$\cos\left(\vec{q},\vec{d}\right)=\frac{\vec{q}\cdot\vec{d}}{\sqrt{\left(\vec{q}\cdot\vec{q}\right)\left(\vec{d}\cdot\vec{d}\right)}}$$, where $\vec{q}$ is a vector comprising scores from the query stack, and wherein $\vec{d}$ is a vector comprising scores from the document stack.

2.-9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method comprising the steps of:

creating a document stack from at least one word in a handwritten document;

creating a query stack from a query; and

determining a measure between the document stack and the query stack, ~~The method of claim 1,~~ wherein each stack is not constrained to words in a vocabulary, wherein each of the words in a query stack or document stack are comprised of a number of n-grams, wherein probabilities are determined for each n-gram of the query stack and document stack, and wherein the probabilities of the n-grams are used in the measure.

11.-15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for retrieving a subset of handwritten documents from a set of handwritten documents, each of the handwritten documents having a plurality of document stacks associated therewith, the method comprising the steps of:

a) creating at least one query stack from a query comprising one or more words, wherein each word is handwritten or typed;

b) selecting a handwritten document from the set of handwritten documents;

c) selecting a document stack from the selected handwritten document;

d) determining a measure between the at least one query stack and the selected document stack;

e) performing steps (c) and (d) for at least one document stack associated with the selected handwritten document;

f) performing steps (b), (c), and (d) for each handwritten document of the set of handwritten documents;

g) scoring each of the handwritten documents in the set of handwritten documents by using the query and the measures, thereby creating a number of document scores; and

h) selecting the subset of handwritten documents for display by using the document scores, wherein each stack is not constrained to words in a vocabulary, wherein each of the words in a query stack or document stack are comprised of a number of n-grams, wherein probabilities are determined for each n-gram of the query stack and document stack, and wherein the probabilities of the n-grams are used in the measure.

17.-25. (Cancelled)

26. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method comprising the steps of:

creating a first word recognition stack, by using a first handwriting recognizer, from at least one word;

creating a second word recognition stack, by using a second handwriting recognizer, from the at least one word; ~~and~~

comparing the first and second word recognition stacks with a third word recognition stack to determine whether a handwritten document should be retrieved;

configuring a handwriting recognizer into a first configuration to create the first handwriting recognizer; and

configuring the handwriting recognizer into a second configuration to create the second handwriting recognizer, wherein the first and second configuration are different, wherein the first configuration comprises a configuration caused by selecting a constraint from the group consisting essentially of an uppercase letter constraint, a lowercase letter constraint, a recognize digits constraint, a language constraint, a constraint wherein characters and words are recognized only if in a vocabulary, and a constraint wherein characters and words are hypothesized when not in a vocabulary, and wherein the second configuration comprises a configuration caused by selecting a constraint from the group consisting essentially of an uppercase letter constraint, a lowercase letter constraint, a recognize digits constraint, a language constraint, a constraint wherein characters and words are recognized only if in a vocabulary, and a constraint wherein characters and words are hypothesized when not in a vocabulary.

27.-33. (Cancelled)

34. (Currently Amended) A computer system comprising:

a memory that stores computer-readable code; and

a processor operatively coupled to the memory, the processor configured to implement the computer-readable code, the computer-readable code configured to:

create a document stack from at least one word in a handwritten document;

create a query stack from a query; and

determine a measure between the document stack and the query stack, where each query stack and document stack comprises a plurality of scores, wherein the measure is a dot product measure defined as follows

$\cos\left(\vec{q}, \vec{d}\right) = \frac{\vec{q} \cdot \vec{d}}{\sqrt{\left(\vec{q} \cdot \vec{q}\right)\left(\vec{d} \cdot \vec{d}\right)}}$, where $\vec{q}$ is a vector comprising scores from the query stack, and wherein $\vec{d}$ is a vector comprising scores from the document stack.

35. (Currently Amended) A computer system comprising:

a memory that stores computer-readable code; and

a processor operatively coupled to the memory, the processor configured to implement the computer-readable code, the computer-readable code configured to:

create a first word recognition stack, by using a first handwriting recognizer, from at least one word;

create a second word recognition stack, by using a second handwriting recognizer, from the at least one word; ~~and~~

compare the first and second word recognition stacks with a third word recognition stack to determine whether a handwritten document should be retrieved;

configure a handwriting recognizer into a first configuration to create the first handwriting recognizer; and

configure the handwriting recognizer into a second configuration to create the second handwriting recognizer, wherein the first and second configuration are different, wherein the first configuration comprises a configuration caused by selecting a constraint from the group consisting essentially of an uppercase letter constraint, a lowercase letter constraint, a recognize digits constraint, a language constraint, a constraint wherein characters and words are recognized only if in a vocabulary, and a constraint wherein characters and words are hypothesized when not in a vocabulary, and wherein the second configuration comprises a configuration caused by selecting a constraint from the group consisting essentially of an uppercase letter constraint, a lowercase letter constraint, a recognize digits constraint, a language constraint, a constraint wherein characters and words are reeognized only if in a vocabulary, and a constraint wherein characters and words are hypothesized when not in a vocabulary.

36. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture comprising:

a computer readable medium having computer-readable code means embodied thereon, the computer-readable program code means comprising:

a step to create a document stack from at least one word in a handwritten document;

a step to create a query stack from a query; and

a step to determine a measure between the document stack and the query stack, where each query stack and document stack comprises a plurality of scores, wherein the measure is a dot product measure defined as follows

$$\cos\left(\vec{q}, \vec{d}\right) = \frac{\vec{q} \cdot \vec{d}}{\sqrt{\left(\vec{q} \cdot \vec{q}\right)\left(\vec{d} \cdot \vec{d}\right)}}$$, where $\vec{q}$ is a vector comprising scores from the query stack, and wherein $\vec{d}$ is a vector comprising scores from the document stack.

37. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture comprising:

a computer readable medium having computer-readable code means embodied thereon, the computer-readable program code means comprising:

a step to create a first word recognition stack, by using a first handwriting recognizer, from at least one word;

a step to create a second word recognition stack, by using a second handwriting recognizer, from the at least one word; ~~and~~

a step to compare the first and second word recognition stacks with a third word recognition stack to determine whether a handwritten document should be retrieved;

a step to configure a handwriting recognizer into a first configuration to create the first handwriting recognizer; and

a step to configure the handwriting recognizer into a second configuration to create the second handwriting recognizer, wherein the first and second configuration are different, wherein the first configuration comprises a configuration caused by selecting a constraint from the group consisting essentially of an uppercase letter constraint, a lowercase letter constraint, a recognize digits constraint, a language

constraint, a constraint wherein characters and words are recognized only if in a vocabulary, and a constraint wherein characters and words are hypothesized when not in a vocabulary, and wherein the second configuration comprises a configuration caused by selecting a constraint from the group consisting essentially of an uppercase letter constraint, a lowercase letter constraint, a recognize digits constraint, a language constraint, a constraint wherein characters and words are recognized only if in a vocabulary, and a constraint wherein characters and words are hypothesized when not in a vocabulary.